



**VALLEY LIFE: DENIM DAY**  
THE LAST CLUB DAY WORKED TO EDUCATE PUBLIC ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT.

# the VALLEY STAR

The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College



**OPINION: CLIMATE CHANGE**  
THE U.S. IS ABOUT TO OVERTAKE SAUDI ARABIA IN OIL PRODUCTION.

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## Chancellor comes to Valley

**Francisco Rodriguez held a meeting on campus to speak and hear from students and staff.**

GABRIEL ARIZON  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The chancellor for the Los Angeles Community College District visited Valley College to talk with faculty and students about his role and responsibilities and to address concerns from the community.

Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez held an informal talk April 18 in the Administration and Career Advancement building with over 30 people to speak about his position within the district and to answer questions. Rodriguez started off by announcing two Valley students, Alexander Richardson and Diana Castro, who had won scholarships from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. The foundation provides the largest private scholarship in the country to high-achieving community college students with financial need.

The scholarship provides up to \$40,000 a year for three years to complete a bachelor's degree at a four-year college and an additional \$75,000 for graduate study. Out of the 2,500 applicants in the country, only 61 were awarded.

"I would like to thank the school, the teachers, the faculty and everyone who helped me. This is incredible," Castro said.

"I actually got this before most of my acceptance letters," Richardson remarked.

Rodriguez continued the meeting by telling the attendees about his responsibilities as chancellor, his pathway to becoming one and motivating the students to apply themselves harder in the classroom.

"Be relentless in your pursuit in development of yourself ... and be fearless," Rodriguez said. "What I mean by that is trust your instincts. Take the challenge. To grow means to put yourself in an uncomfortable situation."

Towards the end of the hour-long meeting, Rodriguez answered questions from several faculty members and students. One student asked what the chancellor was doing about the adjunct professor crisis — the decline of tenured-track positions and the rise of the lower-paying adjuncts that make up an estimated 40 percent of all professors in U.S. colleges and universities, according to the New Yorker. Rodriguez replied by stating the district had hired nearly 600 full-time tenured-track faculty over the past five years.

"That group that we hired, two-thirds came from our adjunct faculty," he said. "Not every discipline, because [Interim President Denise] Noldon and her team determine which position gets filled based on the program you use and student enrollment. It's a whole process to develop a list."

Jim Ridosh, an engineering professor, brought up that the school has 22 engineering classes compared to 143 gym classes (including frisbee and badminton) and asked why there was a large discrepancy. The chancellor responded that some of

see Chancellor p.3

## No one hears ASU candidates

The ASU debate was off to a slow start as candidates answered questions and spoke in an empty room.

TATE COAN AND SOLOMON SMITH  
ONLINE EDITOR AND MANAGING EDITOR

An audience was missing at the ASU election debate on Wednesday, as were a few candidates.

As debaters prepared to speak and take questions from the Election Committee, who regulated the debate, it was soon apparent that no one would be coming to hear them. Situated on the second floor of the Student Union Building, Chairman of the election committee and vice president of the ASU, Sebastian Diaz, lead and announced the rules.

Valley College has had problems getting people to vote and show up to ASU events on campus, including the clubs, who were conspicuously absent. When asked why, many clubs were not even aware of the debates.

"We just found out today," said a student from the Gender and Sexuality Alliance club.

They were not the only club that seemed unaware of the event. Young Democratic Socialists club members were also not made aware of what was occurring. An anonymous member of another club commented on the lack of communication.

"I didn't even know about it



CANDIDATES- ASU members Jose Romo (left) and Evelyn Soriano (right) give their platform to a missing audience.

until my president posted a post from Instagram today," he said. "There's a lack of communication with the clubs and we can't find out why."

As for the candidates who did not show, some had sent emails ahead of time letting ASU know they would be unable to attend. Alejandra Baron, running for commissioner of public health and safety, sent an email

explaining her absence.

"I'm sorry I wasn't able to attend the ASU debate this past week, unfortunately I was gone at a hispanic empowering (ASHIE) conference from LAVC's PASO program," wrote Baron. "I'm currently a mentor at the PASO office and was invited to attend the event that lasted Sunday-Wednesday."

Beginning with general

questions, each candidate described the roles and responsibilities they were vying for. The Election Committee then moved on to specific questions for each position. A common theme among the candidates were the perceived failures of the ASU to communicate with the student body and to effectively work with the clubs on campus.

"We have an awareness issue about resources and I want to make sure that is all compiled into one place," said Elijah Rodriguez, an ASU presidential hopeful and the commissioner of publicity.

Another concept common to many of the platforms was the

see Election p.3



HOMELESS- Michael Jaramillo works for the food pantry at Valley College, handing out canned food.

## Monarch finds home

Determination, support and encouragement helped get this Valley College student off the street and on the path to helping others like him.

MICKIE SHAW  
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

The shouting could be heard from outside the apartment. Father and son were in an argument, their anger barely contained. Suddenly, he attacked his son. Not wanting to hurt his father, the young man backed away. His relationship with his father was one endless conflict, and it was turning violent. He couldn't live with it anymore, so he left home for the second time — for good. With nowhere to go, he was homeless.

Michael Jaramillo was 19 years old and had nowhere to live. With only a baseball duffel bag to carry his few possessions,

he started a perilous journey towards a new life. Laundromats and the park became places to sleep. Friends tried to help by sneaking him into their bedrooms at night when their parents were asleep; another friend let him sleep in his car. His friend would visit every night, hanging out and talking. Before he left, he would give the homeless youth a blanket and a pillow for the night. The next morning Jaramillo would lock up the car and go on his way.

"The worst times were if I had nowhere to go," said Jaramillo. "I would just walk around until the morning time came. It was hard. It was hard."

Jaramillo spent his childhood moving constantly from

one location to another with his mother, stepfather, brother and other family members. They lived at various places in the San Fernando Valley, Palmdale and as far north as Oakland. Jaramillo's father gained custody of him when he was in the eighth grade. It would just be him and his dad living together. The young teenager would have some stability and finally his own room, but there would be no peace. The verbal abuse would soon begin.

Living on the streets was hazardous; reciting Psalm 23:4 when he was fearful or in danger was a comfort.

"I would constantly remind myself of the Bible verse," said Jaramillo with a smile. "I should

trust that God is going to protect me through the night." He proudly showed his necklace with a small cross made of little silver baseball bats, a gift from his girlfriend.

After a few months on the street, a mutual friend of his and his girlfriend (who is now homeless) brought them to The Village Family Services Drop-In Center. The center is also a shelter for transitional youth ages 14 to 25. Homeless youth can use the facilities, eat, look for a job, receive help enrolling in school and find internships. It was at the center he found a new home for the next three years, a job as a Peer Life Coach and a mentor—Evan Tischofer. Tischofer saw the potential in the young man and encouraged him to enroll in school.

Now 24 years old and a full time Valley student, he lives in his own apartment and is a child development major with a 3.5 grade point average. When working for Valley's Helping Hands Project's food pantry, he can be found at there twice a week giving out fresh vegetables, fruit, canned food and drinks. Jaramillo feels "blessed and grateful" for what he has been given and that he is able to help people going through homelessness.

"I feel that everything that happens to you can either make you or it can either break you," said Jaramillo while his eyes started to tear up. "I made it, I actually made it."

### THE FACTS

**The Helping Hands pantry is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Monarch Patio (next to Monarch Hall).**

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### April 24

Monarch Hall will have voting booths for the ASU election on April 24 and 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Denim Day is observed. Peace over Violence encourages wearing jeans as symbolic protest against destructive attitudes on sexual assault.

### ON CAMPUS

#### April 24

The Urban Forest Committee and the ASU is holding the Arbor Day 2019 Celebration, starting at 8:30 a.m.

#### April 25

Interim President Denise Noldon will have her monthly office hours from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Administration and Career Advancement 2101.

The Theater Department is holding three short plays in the Horseshoe Theater at 7:30 p.m.

These features and more can be found in full @ [www.thevalleystar.com](http://www.thevalleystar.com)

Follow up-to-date campus news and events on Twitter @ValleyStarNews



# NEWS

## Mueller report punts decisions to Congress

The Mueller report's release creates more division and questions and talk turns to impeachment.

SOLOMON SMITH  
MANAGING EDITOR

A redacted version of the long-awaited Mueller report was released Thursday, finding no collusion with Russia but did provide more questions about the Trump Administration's handling of the investigation and overall conduct.

The documenting, a hefty 438 pages, contains the work product of almost two years of investigation by Special Investigator Robert Mueller. Although released and available to the public it is heavily redacted and ends with no conclusions about obstruction of justice by the president.

"While this report does not prove the president committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him," read parts.

Hope that Mueller's report would end the fight over whether or not to impeach the president were dashed as each side prepared to explain its own interpretation of the document's

contents to the American people. Attorney General William Barr delayed the report's release until just before a holiday weekend and held a press conference Thursday several hours before the release. His press conference painted a picture of a hounded president who cooperated fully and was unfairly treated.

"The President took no action that in fact deprived the Special Counsel of the documents and witnesses necessary to complete his investigation," said Barr. "Apart from whether the acts were obstructive, this evidence of non-corrupt motives weighs heavily against any allegation that the President had a corrupt intent to obstruct the investigation."

Barr failed to mention that Mueller's team came to no conclusions about Trump's efforts to interfere in the investigation. The report places the responsibility for the decision of obstruction, however, squarely on Congress.

After only a few days of inspection, there have already

been a few discoveries that are not good for the Trump administration. There are 10 different examples outlined in the report that show the president's behavior was close to obstruction of justice.

**"Congress has authority to prohibit a President's corrupt use of his authority in order to protect the integrity of the administration of justice."**

- Elizabeth Warren

"The president's efforts to influence the investigation were mostly unsuccessful," wrote Mueller's team, "but that is largely because the persons who surrounded the president declined to carry out the orders

or accede to his requests."

The investigation discovered that a story written in the New York Times in January 2018, one that Trump called "fake news," was true. Trump had asked former White House Counsel Donald F. McGahn II, to tell then Attorney General Jefferson Beuaregard Sessions, to "unrecuse" himself and fire Mueller. McGahn had several times been instructed to interfere in the investigation but refused to participate. In volume two, page four of the report in a section titled "The appointment of a Special Counsel and efforts to remove him," the Mueller team lays it out.

"On June 17, 2017, the President called McGahn at home and directed him to call the acting attorney general and say that the special counsel had conflicts of interest and must be removed." The report continues, "McGahn did not carry out the direction, however, deciding that he would resign rather than trigger what he regarded as a potential Saturday Night

Massacre.

Deliberately lying to the news media and the voting populace had been flagged within the report and White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders has taken the brunt of the blame.

The list of inappropriate behaviors and lies by the president and staff is detailed throughout the report.

While Republicans continue to either remain silent or tout the report as a victory that exonerates the president, Democrats are of two minds about what to do next. Many are calling for further investigations and impeachment. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D) has called for Mueller to testify leaving the possibility "open" for impeachment. Nadler's committee will be one of the deciding factors. Others have simply called for impeachment outright.

"Mueller put the next step in the hands of Congress: Congress has authority to prohibit a President's corrupt use of his authority in order to protect the

integrity of the administration of justice," tweeted presidential hopeful, and Massachusetts senator, Elizabeth Warren. "The correct process for exercising that authority is impeachment."

The president himself has tweeted a Game of Thrones meme stating "game over", and several tweets declaring "no collusion" and "no obstruction." The most telling response from the president, who has tried to culture an air of defiance and indifference, is a quote of Trump in the report itself. In a conversation with Sessions in May 2017 Trump after learning Mueller would be investigating him: "Oh my God. This is terrible. This is the end of my presidency. I'm f\*\*\*\*d."

There are now about 17 outstanding investigations ongoing as a result of the report. Mueller and McGahn, and several others are expected to testify before Congress about it. This week House Democrats, led by Representative Nancy Pelosi (D) are planning to discuss what to do next.

## Administration to let ACA die

Attorney General William Barr has stated that no one will defend the ACA.

SOLOMON SMITH  
MANAGING EDITOR

After several attempts to deflate or outright remove the Affordable Care Act, more colloquially known as Obamacare, the Trump administration may finally be able to kill it.

U.S. Attorney General William Barr has made it clear that the Trump Administration will not defend the ACA anymore. The decision was quietly issued by Barr's subordinates through a letter from the Justice Department signed by three members of the Attorney General's office in March.

"The Department of Justice has determined that the district court's judgment should be affirmed," the letter states. "Because the United States is not urging that any portion of the district court's judgment be reversed, the government intends to file a brief on the on the appellees' schedule."

In refusing to defend the ACA, Barr has also made a

decision that is in opposition to the standards of his office; a consensus held by many legal professionals and the traditions of the attorney general's office itself, according to articles in the National Law Journal, CNN and Slate. It has been widely accepted that the attorney general's duty is to defend laws that have been passed by Congress.

Since its inception, Republicans have opposed the law, but blowback from constituents — protesting in town halls and public meetings — have forced them to back down. The GOP has attacked the law and lost in the courts over 40 times.

A Texas case currently moving through the courts claims that the ACA is no longer constitutional. In a December 2018 U.S. District Court case, Judge Reed O'Connor struck down the tax mandate and declared the entire law invalid without it. The fight is likely to be heading to the U.S. Supreme Court — with no one to defend the law.

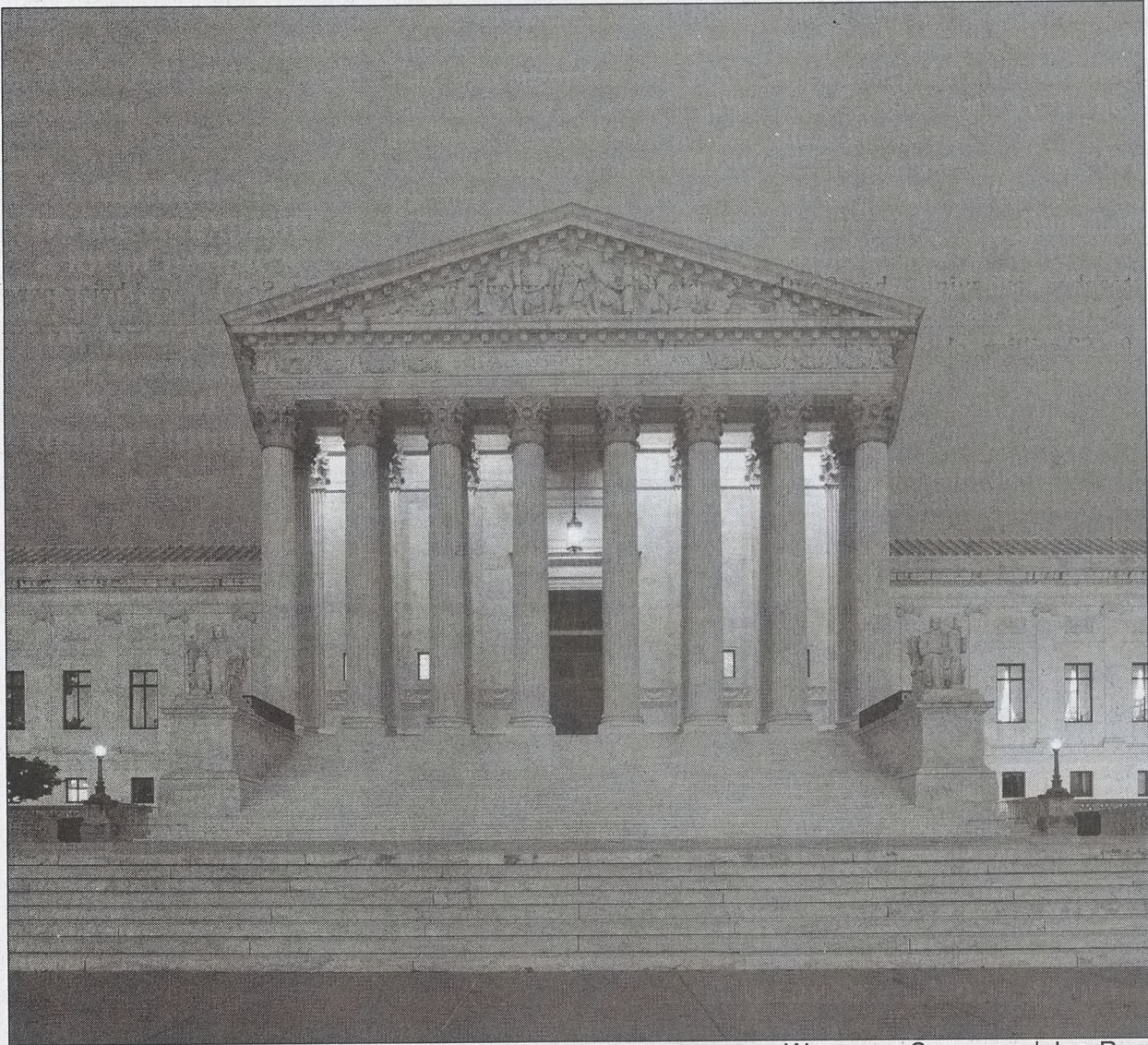
The 2018 midterms were a

testament to the importance of healthcare to both parties. It was the number one issue plaguing Republicans, and removing the law could put them in the same precarious position in 2020.

Obamacare mandates that all people be given access to healthcare, even those with pre-existing conditions. Many of these people were denied service when it was at the discretion of the insurance companies — affecting over 50 percent of the population — the number of Americans estimated to have a prior existing condition. Trump's plan for replacement is kicking the can down the road to 2020.

"The Republicans are developing a really great HealthCare Plan," Trump tweeted. "Vote will be taken right after the [2020 Presidential] Election when Republicans hold the Senate & win back the House."

The ACA is in mortal danger and nothing stands on the horizon to replace it in the foreseeable future.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS | JOE RAVI

COURT- The Trump Administration will not defend the Affordable Care Act in the Supreme Court.

## Smollett has all charges dropped

Before the case went to trial, Jussie Smollett had all charges of him faking a hate crime dismissed.

MICKIE SHAW  
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Chicago prosecutors dropped all charges against "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett, who had been charged with staging a hate crime against himself.

The charges, which were dropped March 26 by State's Attorney Kim Foxx's office, came two weeks after Smollett was charged with 16 felony counts. Smollett agreed to perform two days of community service, forfeit his \$10,000 bond and his records were sealed.

The Cook County State's Attorney's Office said in a statement, "After reviewing all of the facts and circumstances of the case, including Mr. Smollett's volunteer service in the community ... we believe this outcome is a just disposition and appropriate resolution to this case."

Mayor Rahm Emanuel called the charges being dropped a "whitewash" of justice, and that

it was from top-to-bottom not on the level.

"Where is the accountability in the system?" said Emanuel. "You can not have, because of a person's position, one set of rules apply to them, and another set of rules apply to everybody else."

The city is suing Smollett for \$130,100 for the costs of the investigation.

**"I think he is trying to exploit a lot of people's feelings and hurt in America for personal gain. It's kind of disappointing to see that."**

- Angel Crowe

The 36 year old reported he was assaulted while walking

home after leaving a Subway restaurant at approximately 2 a.m. The assailants, one wearing a ski mask, beat him in the face while shouting racist and homophobic slurs. He also claimed the men shouted "This is MAGA-land" referring to the Trump campaign slogan "Make America Great Again," splashed him with an unknown chemical and slung a noose around his neck. Smollett said he was attacked because he is black, gay and a community activist.

Chicago police originally handled the report as a hate crime. A three-week investigation discovered two Nigerian brothers, Abel and Ola Osundairo, were paid \$3,500 by Smollett to stage the attack on him. While detained by police, the brothers claimed Smollett said he orchestrated the hoax to land a bigger salary on "Empire" and for publicity. Smollett is sticking to his original claim that he was attacked.

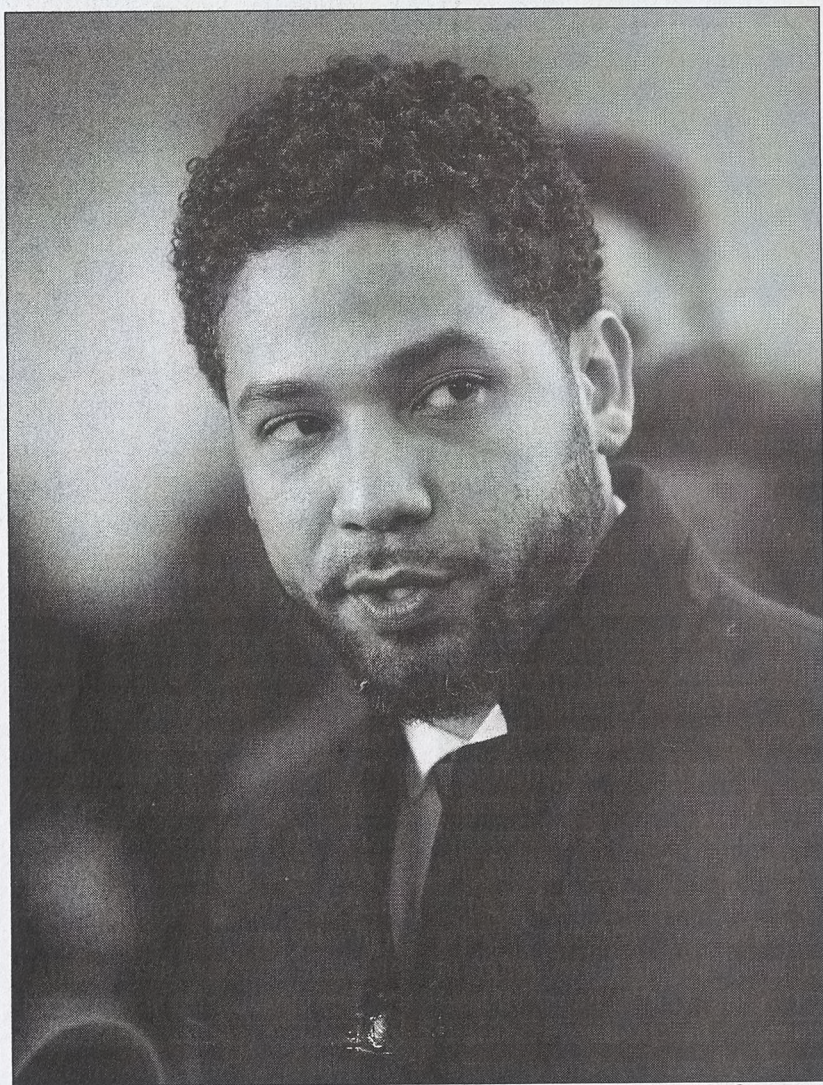
Joseph Magats, State Attorney Foxx's top deputy told the Chicago Tribune, "The fact that [Smollett] feels that we have exonerated him, we have not. I can't make it any clearer than that."

The Chicago police union has called for Foxx's resignation, and petitions have been filed asking for a special prosecutor to investigate Foxx's handling of the case.

If Smollett staged his own attack, Valley College students believe it will affect future hate crime reports.

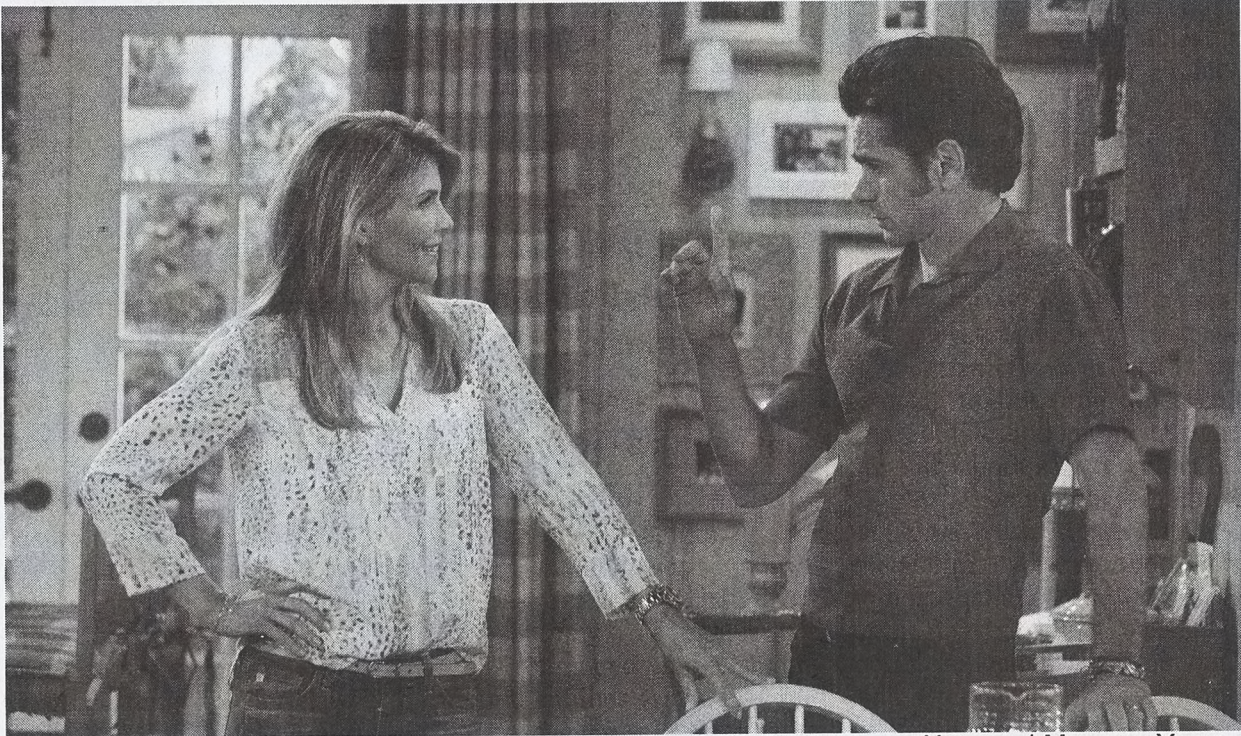
Economics major Daniel Ramirez, 21, said, "It's really harming the LGBT community and it's really harming victims overall."

"I think he is trying to exploit a lot of people's feelings and hurt in America for personal gain. It's kind of disappointing to see that," said Valley student Angel Crowe.



CHICAGO TRIBUNE | JOSE M. OSORIO  
SMOLLETT- The "Empire" actor had all charges against him dropped.





NETFLIX | MICHAEL YARISH

SCANDAL- Actress Lori Loughlin (left) has plead not guilty in the "Varsity Blues" scandal.

## Loughlin denies guilt

The "Desperate Housewives" actress admits her role in "Operation Varsity Blue," but Lori Loughlin additively denies she did anything wrong.

MEG TAYLOR  
NEWS EDITOR

Following Felicity Huffman's guilty plea to a charge of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud,

Lori Loughlin pleaded not guilty April 15 in the "Varsity Blues" college admissions scheme.

Loughlin has been seen outside of court proceeding signing autographs and has not publicly shown any remorse. The "Full

House" actress and her husband, Massimo Giannulli, entered not guilty pleas to both charges against them. The criminal complaints against the couple detail evidence including emails, bank records and recorded phone

calls. If convicted, Loughlin and Giannulli face up to 20 years in prison for each charge.

"If they have real physical evidence against Lori Loughlin, she and her husband are going to be in for a quick guilty verdict and a big punishment," CBS News legal analyst Rikki Klieman said. "If at some point, they should change their mind, the question is how much aggravation have they caused the government so far as well as looking at how they have finally come to grips with taking responsibility."

Unlike Loughlin, Huffman has shown signs of shame and guilt for her role in the largest college admissions scandal in history.

"I am in full acceptance of my guilt, and with deep regret and shame over what I have done, I accept full responsibility for my actions and will accept the consequences that stem from those actions," Huffman said. "I am ashamed of the pain I have caused my daughter, my family, my friends, my colleagues and the educational community. I want to apologize to the students who work hard every day to get into college, and to their parents who make tremendous sacrifices to support their children and do so honestly."

Huffman's husband, actor William H. Macy, has not been charged by federal prosecutors. The court documents mention Macy much less than Huffman, but they suggest Macy knew about his wife's crimes. Many people still question whether her daughter Sofia, 18, should be at fault and held responsible for her mother's actions, but Huffman set the record straight.

"My daughter knew absolutely nothing about my actions, and in my misguided and profoundly wrong way, I have betrayed her."

According to the court records, Huffman and the 12 other parents cooperating with the courts, including Los Angeles marketing guru Jane Buckingham, will plead guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud. Bruce Isackson, Bay Area real estate developer, will plead guilty to one count of money laundering conspiracy and one count of conspiracy to defraud the IRS. Michael Center, the former men's tennis coach at the University of Texas at Austin, will also plead guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud.

## Teacher sues over selfie

Lauren Miranda filed a lawsuit after a topless photo of herself got her fired.

MEG TAYLOR  
NEWS EDITOR

A Long Island middle school teacher is suing the South Country Central School District for \$3 million, claiming she was unlawfully fired over a private photo that was released without her consent.

Lauren Miranda was fired March 27 when a topless selfie that she sent to a former boyfriend three years ago surfaced in the hands of a student at Bellport Middle School.

"I think it is absolutely absurd that I am being fired over my chest," said the 25-year-old math teacher. "I've lost everything I've worked so hard for over a selfie."

According to her lawyer, John Ray, officials wrongfully chastised Miranda over the image, which was sent to her then-partner, another teacher at a different school. She was eventually fired her for not being a proper school "role model."

"This would never have happened to a male teacher," Ray said. "The Suffolk County

Administrators and School Board have not yet discovered that women are equal to men. Lauren is rightly proud of her female torso. A woman's breasts are not inherently prurient."

"This photo was sent

**"My chest is no more offensive than a man's chest."**

- Lauren Miranda

between two adults," said Miranda. "This is my private life. Yes, I am a teacher. Do I carry out my role model face in environments where I might run into families or run into students? Absolutely. I'm entitled to a private life, though. ... What kind of role model am I, to now roll over and hide? I am showing my face and saying something happened to me that I didn't want."

Miranda is suing the school district, citing the debate over digital privacy and gender dis-

crimination in the workplace.

"Men and women are equal; it's 2019," she said. "My chest is no more offensive than a man's chest. So why am I being penalized? Where if a man took the same picture, he wouldn't be in the same situation I'm in."

According to Carrie Goldberg, a lawyer whose firm represents victims of online sexual privacy breaches, this case is about an employer who is not keeping up with the times and has archaic notions about what sexually appropriate conduct is.

"A responsible reaction would be to investigate it, to help the victim report it to the police, to help them contain the spread of the image, and not to just take her livelihood away from her," said Goldberg in an interview with ABC News.

If this were to happen here at Valley College or at any other community college in the LACCD, the situation would have been handled much differently. According to district officials, since the student found the photo on his own, it has nothing to do with the teacher's behavior

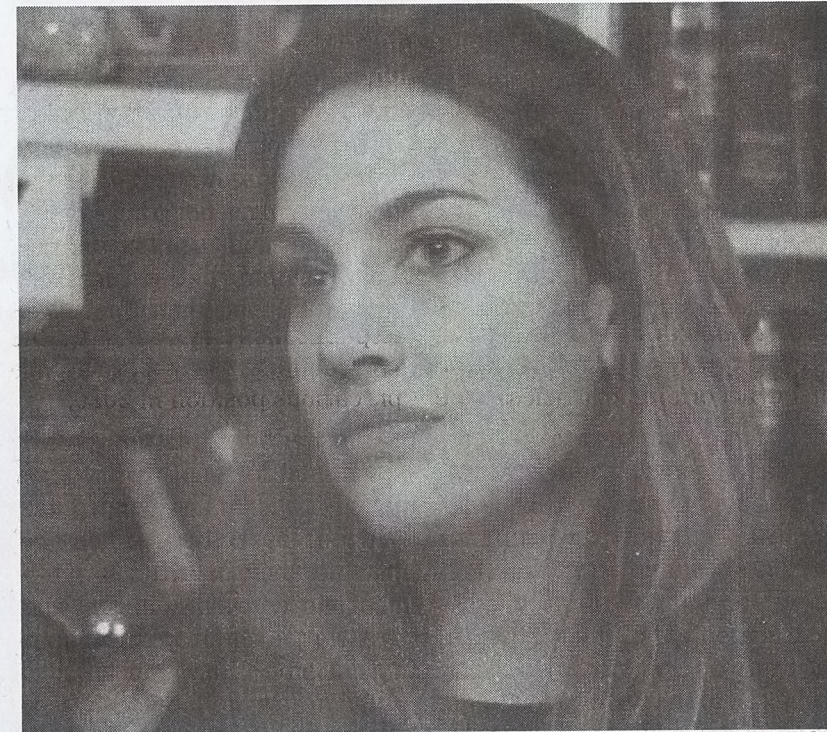


PHOTO COURTESY OF | ABC7

TEACHER- Lauren Miranda was fired over a topless selfie.

toward the student in the classroom. Therefore, there are no grounds to fire the instructor.

"If an LACCD administrator thought there was any impropriety, the district could launch an investigation," said Deborah Kaye, Communications Director, AFT Faculty Guild 1521. "The union would provide the instructor with assistance from the grievance rep on campus and the chief grievance officer for the Faculty Guild. If necessary,

the instructor would be provided with the services of an attorney. The union would ensure that due process was followed every step of the way."

According to WABC, the Suffolk school district would not make anyone available to speak about the situation, only saying in a statement on behalf of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Giani, "The district does not comment on active litigation."

## 'Chancellor'

from page 1

those classes are non-credit and are used to round out the curriculum. The engineering classes, on the other hand, are determined by enrollment, and an average of 34 students is needed to maintain the cost of each class in Valley; classes with less than that causes the district to lose money.

Rodriguez went on and stated LACCD is a chronically underfunded institution. He said that the state provides \$5,400 per full-time student while providing \$54,000 to the Department of Corrections per person.

Adjunct Counselor Angie Aguilar asked if the district is dealing with students who are experiencing food insecurity and homelessness. Rodriguez mentioned that the district provides immediate support to students, but recognizes that it does not have the resources to provide long-term aid.

The chancellor brought up Assembly Bill 302 which would allow homeless students to sleep in their cars on college parking lots. He also mentioned that 60 percent of LACCD students are food insecure and 19 percent experienced homelessness in the past year.

The meeting ended with Rodriguez by addressing an undocumented student's question on getting the right counselors by stating the district has more undocumented students — about 11,500 in fall 2016 according to a 2018 District Strategic Plan — than the entirety of the Cal State system, and treats the issue seriously.

"The hiring process is a pretty big committee, a Noah's Ark committee. I have strong assurance that the process and that the people on the committee will provide their due diligence."

## 'Election'

from page 1

idea that the ASU needed to be more visually represented on campus. Branding (like jackets and a new logo) to make the ASU a more visual component of campus life has been on the ASU's agenda for the last two years.

Some of the candidates showed their character as well as their skills in their responses. While many candidates noted their experience and leadership abilities, Jose Romo, an ASU member and commissioner of student life candidate, decided to attempt a Jimmy Carter impression — it was not well received.

The debate itself was not much of a debate. There was no back and forth between candidates and no contrast apparent between Romo and his fellow ASU member Maricela Garcia who are running for the same position.

"We don't have any conflict

... we like to work together," said Garcia. "Yea, we're not sore losers ... there's no competition," Romo agreed.

This year candidates are using methods from more formal campaigns by pooling their appeal to reach voters; some candidates have chosen to run on the same ticket. Business major Ani Apikyan, 17, is running for vice president alongside art history major Angela Darpinan — seeking reelection as commissioner of fine arts — and physics major Evelyn Soriano, who is running for commissioner of health and safety concerns.

Soriano criticised the handling of a threat made on campus last month when alarming remarks were found scrawled on a bathroom wall. Some believe that the situation was mishandled by authorities and school officials.

"There was a student out

there that felt broken and hurt enough to make a threat like that and so I think, for those situations, it would be a communication [issue] ... A lot of the students weren't aware of that threat until the night before and then on top of that the authorities and everyone else that were involved with that [knew] about the threat since January. That was a three month gap."

Approximately 325 people voted in the last election, out of 18,000 eligible student voters, according to Student Ambassador Ryan Easland. The ASU is hoping for a better turn out this time around. Voting will be online through a link in student emails between April 22 and 29. In-person voting will take place on April 24 and 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Monarch Hall.

## The Valley Star

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Letters to the editor can be sent to: [editor@lavalleystar.com](mailto:editor@lavalleystar.com) or submitted online at [www.lavalleystar.com](http://www.lavalleystar.com). Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.



# 4 VALLEY LIFE

## Denim brings awareness to sexual assault

Denim Day makes a fashion statement that raises awareness about sexual assault, harassment and the myths that surround it.

MICKIE SHAW  
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Valley College observed Denim Day in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month during the latest Club Day held at Monarch Square.

The Valley Health Center, in partnership with Peace Over Violence (an activist organization working to educate the public about sexual violence), displayed a table decorated with jean shorts, jackets and blue jeans hung on a clothesline in front of their table. Information about support organizations for victims of sexual assault, buttons, stickers and whistles as well as information about services offered at the Valley Health Center were distributed.

"We are constantly bringing awareness that no matter what you wear or who you are, there is no excuse for assault," said Sonia Nodal, physician assistant and Valley Health Center clinical supervisor. "It was very exciting to see students interested and to get our buttons and whistles, and just pass them on to their classmates and share the awareness."

The global movement to bring awareness to sexual assault was the result of the Italian Supreme Court overturning the 1992 rape conviction of a 45-year-old driving instructor.

The man was taking his 18-year-old student on her first driving lesson when he drove her to an isolated place, removed her jeans and raped her. He was captured, convicted and imprisoned.

The Supreme Court determined that because the victim was wearing very tight jeans, she had to have helped the rapist remove them; therefore, the sex was consensual. It became known as the "jean alibi." The next day, Italian female parliamentarians, angered by the ruling, wore jeans in solidarity with the victim and protested on the steps of the Supreme Court. Inspired by the protest, the California Senate and Assembly did the same thing on the Capitol's steps.

After watching the protest in Sacramento, Peace Over Violence started Denim Day in Los Angeles in April of 1999, as a sexual violence prevention and education campaign.

Jeans are worn in protest against sexual assault, abuse, harassment and harmful myths and attitudes about these acts. The campaign has grown to millions of supporters world wide. Denim Day is formally recognized on April 24 when the public are encouraged to wear jeans.

"I definitely think it draws attention. If you have people wearing the same thing people will ask why are they doing this;



DENIM- Blue jeans were hung at the Health Services table to promote sexual assault awareness on Denim Day. VALLEY STAR | MICKIE SHAW

why are they showing some sort of solidarity?" said Trinity Frias, 18, a mechanical engineering major. "It's always good to know that there are these kinds of

organizations and events on campus."

Victims of sexual assault or abuse can visit the Valley Student Health Center. Psychological

services, including 12 therapy sessions per semester, are offered. The health center is located in the Student Union Building and is open Monday

through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Jerry Ough contributed to this report.

## "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel": Comedic Gold

You will have a smorgasbord of emotions while watching Midge Maisel's journey from housewife to stand-up star.



MAISEL- Midge, played by Rachel Brosnahn, and Susie, played by Alex Borstein, are on their way for season 3 of the Amazon Prime series. PHOTO COURTESY OF | AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

MEG TAYLOR  
NEWS EDITOR

Amazon's comedic series "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" has already been renewed for a third season and has stolen the hearts of many along with

nabbing numerous Emmys and Golden Globes.

Set in the late 1950s, the show follows the life of Miriam "Midge" Maisel. Portrayed by Rachel Brosnahan, Midge has everything she has ever wanted — the perfect husband, two kids and an elegant apartment on New York's Upper West Side. Her seemingly splendid life

takes a surprising turn when her marriage falls apart, and she discovers her hidden talent — stand-up comedy. With her newfound friend turned manager Susie Myerson, portrayed by Alex Borstein, Midge embarks on a journey of self-discovery where she learns what it means to be an independent working woman.

Created by Amy Sherman-Palladino ("Gilmore Girls"), this show encompasses New York City in the 50s through its authentic set design and costumes. The scenes are filled with vibrant and detailed couture looks on the Upper West Side and beat styles of the West Village. Each episode takes the audience to popular NYC spots like the lav-

ish department store B. Altman, the iconic Copacabana nightclub and the gritty comedy club world of Greenwich Village.

New York Jewish culture in the 1950s is an integral part of this show. When the first season begins, Midge depicts the persona of the stereotypical New York Jewish housewife: tends to her husband and children, makes her daily trips to the deli, and plans out every holiday to a tee while making sure the Rabbi can make an appearance to solidify her hard work. She has the overbearing yet incredibly loving parents and in-laws along with a smorgasbord of Yiddish and Jewish phrases and jokes that anyone can grasp and laugh along at.

The script is another main contributor to this show's success. This comedy is written in a way that grabs your attention and never lets go. It is fast-paced yet easy to follow. While humor plays a big part in this script, the show tackles many themes such as friendship, transformation, gender roles, dependency and self-love.

Brosnahan ("House of Cards," "Manhattan") is a breath of fresh air. The 28-year-old actress fully embodies Midge, leaving no room for separation between herself and the character. Her quick wit and energy, paired with her inner and outer beauty, is what makes her shine in this role and compels the audience to become fully invested in her story.

Borstein ("Shameless," "The Lizzie McGuire Movie") is exceptionally funny and raw in the role of Susie. Her character symbolizes the stereotyp-

ical New Yorker: a loud, pushy, ball-buster. Some days you love her, some days you hate her, but you always care about and root for her; she constantly speaks her mind and never censors herself. Borstein perfectly depicts the "fake it till you make it" mentality and reminds the audience that everyone has their own personal struggles, but they cannot let those struggles get in the way of them getting what they want — and more importantly, what they deserve.

Susie is the best partner for Midge because they are polar opposites. Where Midge lacks in certain areas, Susie thrives and vice versa. Although their differences cause them to frequently butt heads, it also allows them to learn from one another and for their business relationship to flourish into a whacky and beautiful friendship.

"The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" received seven major nominations in 2019, winning four awards including Rachel Brosnahan's second Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series - Musical Or Comedy. Last year, the show swept the Emmys, winning eight awards, and also won two Critics' Choice Awards.

There is still plenty of time to dive into the Maisel madness before the upcoming season. Viewers can binge watch the first two seasons on Amazon Prime Video. Season three of "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" will be available to start streaming Dec. 5.

## Shazam makes a thunderous entrance to the big screen

The new superhero movie "Shazam!" exceeds expectations despite tough film competition around it this month.

DEVIN SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

The film "Shazam!" showcases an unconventional superhero portrayal that is a breath of fresh air compared to its rivals in terms of relatability and character connection.

"Shazam!" directed by David Sandberg, details the story of a young foster child named Billy Batson, played by Asher Angel, who is unwilling to fit in with an non-biological family. When

he meets a foster family that seems to genuinely care about his well-being however, his life takes a drastic turn. He unwillingly gains lightning-like superpowers and changes into the body of a chiseled grown man, played by Zachary Levi. Billy is the chosen one to fight off an evil that can destroy all of mankind. He takes on the mantle of Shazam and he must quickly learn how to use his newfound powers to fight this force and protect the only true family he has ever had.

This film is exceptionally good at setting the right tone. The comedy was never forced, and the action and storytelling were original and was able to get the audience attached early in the film. Putting a 14-year-old in a grown superhero's body is an unique concept that sets Shazam apart from other protagonists. Due to the fact that he is so young with a relatable backstory, it is easy for Billy to connect with viewers. It feels like we are on this journey and learning with him the entire way through.

Angel and Levi were both outstanding in their roles as the younger and superhero versions of Billy. It was believable that Levi was actually the grown-up version of Angel. It is not easy to split a film up and use different actors for the same character and have it remain credible, but this film does it perfectly. Billy's best friend in the film is played by well-known actor Jack Dylan Grazer. The duo provides an unreal amount of comic relief and ordinary relatability, which is tough for a hero movie to do.

The dialog in this film is one of the best parts about it, due to its creativity and use of current culture. Even though Billy is now a grown hero, he is still a young boy at heart. That can be seen by how he carries himself. He looks intimidating, but he speaks how any child at that age would and just wants to play video games and make funny jokes at the end of the day, no matter how severe the situation is. The interactions between him and the permanently serious, no jokes whatsoever force that wants to destroy the entire world

are some of the things that make this film special.

This film is an amazing watch and was definitely better than the majority of people expected judging by the initial backlash. With stiff competition in hero movies coming out in this season, "Shazam!" marched right in and made its mark. This is not an ordinary superhero movie so everyone should give it a chance even if traditional hero movies do not appeal to them. It was a wonderful ride and unexpected ride.



# OPINION

5

## One Way or Another: One question, two opposing viewpoints

### Everyone gets a pass Pay your own way

Valley College students should go and vote in support of the subsidized transportation fee.

GABRIEL ARIZON  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The upcoming ASU student election will feature a transportation referendum that will give students a subsidized bus and train pass. Given the low price and ease of which the bus/train pass can be acquired, this is a referendum that Valley College students should be giving their support.

The transportation pass offered will cost a cheaply \$13 per semester and will feature an unlimited number of rides. Any Valley student taking credits can get one, and new information by Dean of Student Life Elizabeth Negrete states that the pass will not just cover Metro buses and trains, but also other municipal bus lines including Long Beach Transit, Pasadena Transit, Norwalk Transit, Big Blue Bus and Torrance Transit (includes DASH and LADOT).

There is a reason why almost all the colleges in the Los Angeles Community College District is including a similar referendum in their student elections (Pierce College being the sole outlier): the transportation pass is incredibly beneficial for

students who greatly need it and highly inexpensive to those who may see less of a use for it.

Standard fare for the bus and train is \$1.75. If a student took a bus to and from school four days a week for the whole semester (around 16 weeks), they would be paying \$224. If a student has to work, the cost can go even higher. A monthly Metro pass is \$100, which could cost a student \$300 to \$400 a semester.

The cheapest monthly pass a student can buy is \$43, as part of the College/Vocational TAP card program. However, they must provide proof of enrollment in an accredited school in the LA County, a full-face photo, a photo ID and must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 units for a minimum of three months. Students have to go out of their way to get this pass, and even then, it still does not apply to everybody. Students that need to work and cannot take that many units find themselves losing out on a steep discount.

Conversely, the referendum is a one-time fee per semester and every student can obtain one. There are no limitations, no hoops nor hurdles. If similar math applied above is used here, the fee would only cost approximately 20 cents a day. This is

a big deal, both literally and figuratively.

It is understandable if students who mainly use cars for travel see no need for the referendum. After all, a study showed that over 60 percent of Valley students use cars to get to school. However, almost a quarter said they would use a bus if a reduced price was offered. That is too big a number to ignore.

Besides, how often do you think about the cost of that morning cup of coffee you buy from Starbucks? Or the fast food you get when you want a quick bite to eat? How about the health fee you already pay now? Can you really say there will not be a situation where you may need one?

It is understandable that some may feel slighted for paying for a bus pass when they have a car, but \$13 that lasts for a whole semester is more than a reasonable ask. This benefits those who are financially disadvantaged and those who may not be getting financial aid. For them, this pass is invaluable. The election starts April 22 and runs for a week. When the time comes, go out and vote "yes."

Burdening students with the cost of transportation for other students is a burden we do not need.

SOLOMON SMITH  
MANAGING EDITOR

Every Monday I drive to Valley College in the morning for class and then immediately go to Pierce College for another class. Afterwards I drive to Sylmar to pick up my wife. I pay for lunch when I can, coffee when I have to, and gas because I have to. It is not cheap. Now a new rule might require me to pay for someone else's bus pass to Valley College. Thanks, but no thanks.

Supporting one another as students is important and helping a struggling student is the right thing to do, but there is a limit to how much we can each personally bear. The LA Metro currently offers a student discount for bus passes for college and vocational students. The application process is as simple as filling out a form online. Valley's proposal to offset the price of bus fare onto those of us who do not need it is unnecessarily burdensome.

Many students pay their own way and it seems unfair to charge those students, already encumbered with their own transportation, for the cost of someone

else's bus ride. A program like this stuffed into student fees is also worrisome because it sets a disturbing trend; offloading the cost of some else's idea onto the student body. If this is something that is truly needed for student equity there are several programs available already to assist.

This is the type of program that should be handled by the school itself and not dumped onto the students. A slippery slope quickly headed downhill is the only thing that this program can be certain to start. Today we pay for other people's bus fare, maybe tomorrow it is other people's meals will be added onto your school fees, maybe someone else's books, parking, class materials, or whatever other costs the school does not want to cover. It is the beginning of a bad precedent.

If we want to help the students on campus get to class there are other options. Austin Community College offers a carpool program encouraging students to give one another a ride to class. The program aims to lower the school's carbon footprint, reduce the cost of gas for students and help with parking congestion. It even gives preferred parking to students who

participate. Thinking outside of the box should be the first stop for solving issues not taking money out of the pockets of students.

The transportation referendum is still in the process of being approved but one school has decided against it — Pierce College. They are on the right track and Valley should opt out as well.

Transportation is a serious problem for many students, but this proposal is not the way to solve it.

#### BUS PASS

Metro monthly passes cost \$100 while the new referendum will offer students a \$13 pass per semester.

## The US: the second biggest contributor to climate change

Climate race between Saudi Arabia and The United States with the winner getting a chance to destroy the planet first.

TATE COAN  
ONLINE EDITOR

The U.S. is about to knock Saudi Arabia out of second place for largest contributor to the climate change massacre.

Even though the world is worried about the effects of climate change, the United States does not care as long as we see profits. You would think the over \$14 million salary of people like Exxon Mobil CEO, Darren W. Woods, would be enough but apparently big oil wants to add global destruction to their resume.

**"The U.S. having regained its position as the world's top liquids producer in 2014, is poised to accelerate into the league of its own..."**

- Artem Abramov

in the US has nearly doubled since 2008, according to Energy Watch, despite many scientists citing the burning of fossil fuels as the largest contributor to climate change. According to Rystad Energy projections, the U.S. is set to surpass Saudi Arabia in exports of oil by the end of this year and the combined exports of Saudi Arabia and Russia by 2025.

"The U.S. having regained its position as the world's top liquids producer in 2014, is poised to accelerate into the league of its own over the next six years and eclipsed the collective output of its two closest rivals by 2025" said Rystad Energy partner Artem Abramov.

Big oil companies either do not understand or do not mind that the burning of fossil fuels is not sustainable due to both, it is limited supply and its lethal effects. When fossil fuels are burned it releases carbon dioxide, a greenhouse, and traps heat in the atmosphere. It is what keeps our planet warm but with too much carbon dioxide comes too much heat.

People living in poverty will be the most vulnerable to the effects with little access to resources to counter the outcome, according to a National Climate Assessment. Money protects you even from some of the biggest global issues. With rising sea levels, someone with

little resources would be screwed in a flood but millionaires would only be minorly inconvenienced. If climate change damages were not left up to greedy men with enough wealth or age to escape its effects, we would see bigger improvements. These men make enough money to buy some health insurance, a new house after a flood, water and a working air conditioner during the brutal summer months, and still have enough left over to fill the hole in their chest where their heart should be.

Although President Donald Trump has been a big advocate for big oil and consistently dismisses scientific evidence of climate change, he is not to be credited with this large surge, it is actually thanks to Congress.

In 2015, Congress lifted a 40-year ban on oil exports and ever since, the oil industry has taken advantage of their newly found freedom. The ban was set into place when the US did not have enough oil to sustain its energy needs. Now that oil production has increased by 90 percent just since 2008, there is no longer a need to hoard, causing the country to lift the ban and start trading surplus.

According to the National Research Defense Council, we have 20 years before there is no turning back the effects of climate change and at this rate, we might be doomed.

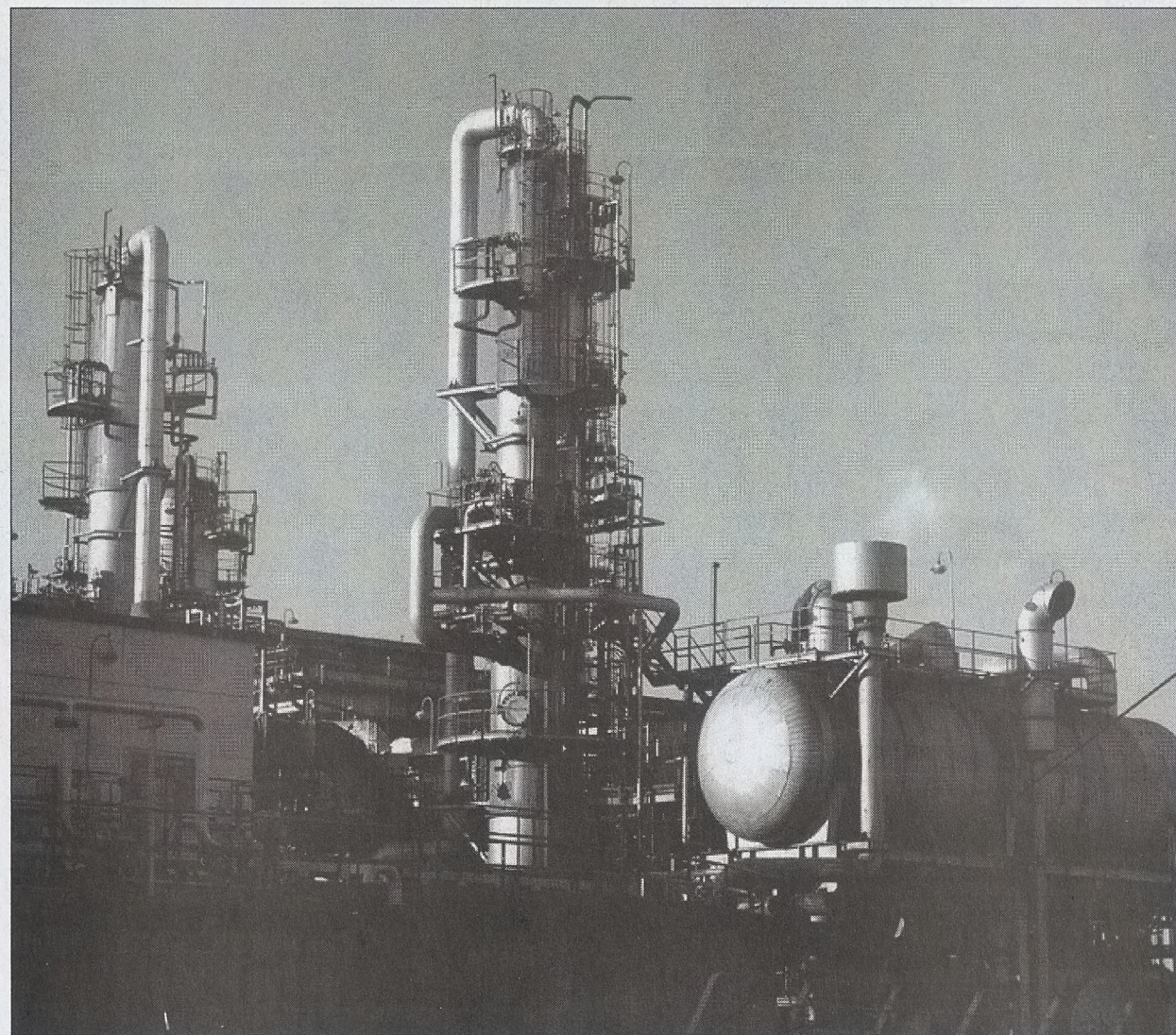


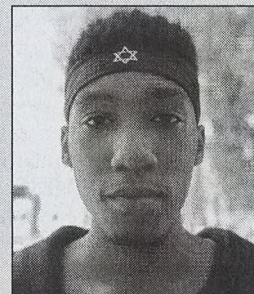
PHOTO COURTESY OF | PIXABAY

OIL- In 2017, the U.S. consumed a total of 7.28 billion barrels of petroleum, according to the EIA.

#### VALLEY VIEW

DO YOU THINK EVERY STUDENT SHOULD BE CHARGED THE \$13 FEE, EVEN IF THEY'RE NOT USING IT?

TEXT BY MICKE SHAW | PHOTOS BY ALANA AIMAQ



"A lot of people take bus. Just having this U-pass will help take some of the stress off."  
-KYIANU GREENE, FILM



"I think it's a good idea ... a lot of people might not notice it's been added."  
-PATROSINO CRUZ, COMMUNICATION



"Thirteen dollars is not a big deal if it's helping a large group of people ... I personally would not use a bus pass."  
- ANONI GRAFTON, GENERAL EDUCATION



"I have friends who take the bus. I think if they had a pass it would be a lot easier."  
- MARIA ALCANTARA, PSYCHOLOGY



"I think it's not that bad. It's not that big an increase in price. So it will really help. I take the bus."  
- NICKOLAS SZOSTKOWSKI, NURSING

#### EDITORS NOTE

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administration, faculty, staff or students.



6 the VALLEY STAR

The Independent Student Newspaper of Los Angeles Valley College

Water storage tanks pre-  
pare foundation

Construction moves forward for the water storage tank, which will be replacing some of the recently destroyed bungalows. The tank will be a part of a new cooling system incorporating pipes, which will spread out underneath the entire campus. As the campus is being updated infrastructure will also need to be modernized.

Text and photos by  
Solomon Smith, Photo Editor

RIGHT- A giant  
screw for boring  
holes to hold the  
foundation.

BELOW- Workers  
move cement  
pouring machine  
over holes for  
setting the founda-  
tion.



ABOVE- A CAT bulldozer moves dirt to make space for incoming equipment.



ABOVE- A giant  
screw used to make  
holes for rebar and  
cement placed  
underground.

RIGHT- Storage  
yard in the parking  
lot of the bungalows  
used for extra equip-  
ment.

LEFT- Workers  
remove wooden  
guides used to place  
rebar supports for  
the foundation.

